

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIEST 00017 120904Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 AID-05 HA-05 /063 W
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R 111730Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0795

UNCLAS TRIESTE 0017

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: UNREST IN FRIULI EARTHQUAKE AREA

1. BITTER WINTER COLD HAS SETTLED INTO FRIULI EARTHQUAKE AREA BRINGING IN ITS WAKE INCREASED LOCAL IMPATIENCE WITH WHAT IS PERCEIVED HERE AS THE SNAIL'S PACE OF REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION. SOME ARE ALSO STARTING TO ASK ABOUT THE FATE OF THE FUNDS OBLIGATED BY ROME FOR THE EARTHQUAKE ZONE.

2. REGIONAL PRESIDENT COMELLI (DC) NOTED JANUARY 7, THAT THE FIRST 120 BILLION LIRE OF THE 375 BILLION LIRE DUE FRIULI IN 1977 WAS ON ITS WAY. SUCH ASSURANCES HOWEVER DID NOT HEAD OFF LONG-PLANNED DEMONSTRATION BY UNIONS IN GEMONA JANUARY 8.

3. UNIONS STATED GOALS WERE TO ENSURE (A) THAT ROME S FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS ARE MAINTAINED, (B) THAT THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MAKE GOOD ON ITS PLEDGE TO DEVELOP ON A PRIORITY BASIS AN OVERALL RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, AND (C) THAT COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE EFFORT. AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF FIVE THOUSAND SHOWED UP FOR THE DEMONSTRATION WHICH WAS A JOINT CISL-CGIL-UIL EFFORT
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COORDINATED WITH THE EARTHQUAKE COMMUNITIES. THE GATHERING HAD PSI-PCI BLESSING BUT AREA DC MPS DID NOT PARTICIPATE.

4. THE RECONSTRUCTION ISSUE IS BECOMING DAILY MORE DELICATE AND THE GEMONA DEMONSTRATION IS A BAROMETER OF FRAYED TEMPERS AND INCREASING IMPATIENCE WITH PROGRAM SO FAR. REGIONAL ELECTIONS ARE IMMINENT (MAY OR JUNE THIS

YEAR) AND AS ALL LOCAL POLITICIANS ARE AWARE, THEIR OUTCOME
WILL TURN ON ONE ISSUE -- THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY S
PERFORMANCE IN DEALING WITH THE FRIULI CALAMITY.
MOEN.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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